



MEMO ENDORSED

November 17, 2020

Hon. Katherine Polk Failla
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
40 Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Re: United States v. Clifford Taylor, 19-CR-410

Dear Judge Failla:

A change of plea hearing is currently scheduled for Mr. Taylor on November 20, 2020. In light of recent events, and with the consent of the government, I respectfully request an adjournment of the hearing to early December.

As the Court is aware, the change of plea hearing has been adjourned several times, most recently because the government and I were in renewed discussions about whether a new, reduced, plea offer would be made in light of Mr. Taylor's ongoing medical issues. A phone meeting was held with AUSA Wolf and his supervisors on November 3, 2020. Yesterday, I was informed by Mr. Wolf that the government had decided not to make a new plea offer to Mr. Taylor.

In light of this decision, I need time to speak with Mr. Taylor to prepare him for the original guilty plea. This is made more difficult by Mr. Taylor's hearing difficulties, which seem to be worsening, therefore requiring, in my opinion, an in-person meeting with Mr. Taylor. It also appears that cognitively Mr. Taylor understands me better in person than on the phone. For the same reason, I believe an in-person change of plea hearing is preferred over a video or telephonic conference.

On a personal front, I am currently quarantining in advance of Thanksgiving to allow for a family gathering that includes elderly people. I am therefore greatly reluctant to meet individuals outside of my family in person before Thanksgiving.

Finally, before any change of plea takes place, I will be filing a motion with the Court to request that the Court find "exceptional reasons" under 18 U.S.C. § 3145(c) to waive the mandatory detention provision of 18 U.S.C. § 3143 upon entry of Mr. Taylor's plea. It is hard to imagine a more exceptional reason than the worsening COVID-19 pandemic, which caused the Court to release Mr. Taylor in the first place. I am currently awaiting word from the government as to whether it will oppose such a motion.

For all these reasons, I respectfully ask that the current change of plea conference is adjourned to early December, ideally to some day during the week of December 7th. If granted, Mr. Taylor consents to an exclusion of time under the Speedy Trial Act from November 20, 2020 to the next date set by the Court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Florian Miedel
Attorney for Clifford Taylor

cc: AUSA Daniel Wolf

Application GRANTED. However, the Court is disinclined to grant further extensions. The conference scheduled for November 20, 2020, is hereby ADJOURNED to **December 10, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.** in Courtroom 618 of the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, 40 Foley Square, New York, NY.

It is further ORDERED that time is excluded under the Speedy Trial Act between November 17, 2020, and December 10, 2020. The Court finds that the ends of justice served by excluding such time outweigh the interests of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial because it will allow the defense to discuss Mr. Taylor's plea in person and to prepare the anticipated motion.

Dated: November 17, 2020
New York, New York

SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Katherine Polk Failla".

HON. KATHERINE POLK FAILLA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE